

RREC Advisory Board Meeting

Note: Meeting was held at the Rolla City Council Chambers, Rolla, MO  
May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – 8:00 a.m.

Attending voting members: Candace Connell, Wayne Parry, Keith Strassner, Jeff Davis, Stevie Kearse, Ben Tipton, Ed Clayton, Mike Woessner, Shad Becker, Dusty Cruise, Robert Teresso and Randy Verkamp.

Guests: County Commissioner Gary Hicks, Tony Floyd and Jim White, Intercounty Electric Coop, John Butz, Rolla City Administrator, Vicki Cason, RMU, Jill Fahrenholtz, community resident, Carol Pennington, Mercy, Lonna Sowers, Jennie Riegel from Rep. Jason Smith's office, Stan Frisbee, and Rolla City Mayor, Lou Magdits.

Call to order: President Wayne Parry called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

President Parry asked the board members to review the April minutes which had been sent electronically prior to this meeting. **A motion was made by Ben Tipton and seconded by Robert Tessero to approve the minutes as presented. A voice vote on the motion showed twelve ayes, zero nays. Motion carried.**

**New Business:**

- Market Place West. Mike Woessner updated the members on his purchase of 90 acres in 2007 to bring a major developer to this area. He has been attending IDEC for several years and to make this property. He is working with UTW, who represents about 15 retailers. He and the developer have been in meetings with the City and the Council for this project. Funding agreements will need to be worked out for infrastructure and transportation including TIF. He is looking at a 12 to 18 months time frame before they could break ground.
- Forum Shopping Center. John Butz reported on improvements to the Forum Shopping Center. Investors are looking to purchase the Center to build a grocery store and spend 2 million dollars to give the Center a face lift. Look for improvements to start in a year.
- Tech 44: Doyle Edwards, Chairman of Tech 44 announced the addition of Lonna Sowers as the new Executive Director of the 3 year old initiative. Prior to the addition of a director, the initiative was composed of all volunteers. Tech 44 will be one of the sponsors for STEM event, Growing Innovation in St. Louis on May 23. Panelists include Dr. Terry Brewer, Brewer Science, and Mike Downing, Dir. of MO. Department of Economic Development, and Dr. Cheryl Schrader, Chancellor at MST. Businesses in Missouri are looking for workers in the STEM field.  
County Commissioner, Randy Verkamp, recognized Brewer Science in their ribbon cutting event held recently at their new site. Brewer Science broke ground 1 year ago and the new facility will be manufacturing products in June.
- Coordinating Marketing Brand: Director Lorey has been in contact with a marketing company for information to upgrade the RREC website. Director Lorey recently met with John Butz, Rolla City Administrator and Stevie Kearse, Executive Director of the Rolla Chamber of Commerce for a discussion to have a coordinated look or brand on their websites. The Cities of Rolla and St. James have a link on the RREC website and she feels it is important to also have a link to the Chamber's web site.

Keith Strassner, MST was informed by a Dean candidate that the Rolla Wikipedia page should be updated.

**Old Business:**

- Project Topaz update: Director Lorey received a call from her contact at Project Topaz company headquarters. They are in the process of making a decision about their expansion and he hopes to give her a decision within the next 60 to 90 days. He also invited Director Lorey and the new Rolla Mayor to a visit at their headquarters. Director Lorey also updated the companies participating in the Project Topaz special program incentive that funds would not be needed until 2015.

**Presentation: PCRMC Update: Ed Clayton, CFO, PCRMC**

Candace Connell passed out the brochure, Phelps Regional Health Care Foundation. The Foundation with the help of MRPC will be applying for a grant to facilitate parking improvements as the hospital continues to grow. She is asking RREC to provide a letter of support by May 30<sup>th</sup>. **A motion was made by Randy Verkamp and seconded by Keith Strassner to sent a letter of support for the Foundation. A voice vote on the motion showed twelve ayes, zero nays. Motion carried.**

Jennie Reigel with Rep. Jason Smith will check with Jason to see if he would also add a letter of support for the Foundation.

**Announcements:**

- Rolla 31 Education Strategic Plan was adopted at the recent board meeting.
- MODOT Transportation Bill was passed and will go on the ballot this fall.
- Workforce Certified Work Ready initiative has received funding for Work Key testing in the high school.
- RDBA 20<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Fest will be held on May 30, 31, and June 1.
- Stevie Kearse reported on several upcoming events hosted by the Rolla Chambers.

President Perry asked for any further business. With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:00 am.

Ben Tipton, Secretary/Treasurer

Prepared by Lee Flowers